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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT General Conditions in Village of Aydogdu
 in Shumen District

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- general conditions in 50X1-HUM

village, Aydogdu, in the District of Shumen in Bulgaria.

 - "Aydogdu consists of 310 houses and has 1,400 inhabitants. It is a small agricultural community of Turks, almost without any Bulgarians in the village. In 1948, a kolkhoz had been established there by the authorities and another Turk, Nuru Hodja, had been appointed to run the cooperative. He is a weak man, joined the Party and accepted this position only for money, and it can be seen that he doesn't feel at ease towards his compatriots. Another Turk from the village who became a Communist is Nuru Hodja (not related with the former). He is a much stronger character than the former, had his own ideas and for not having been sufficiently subservient to the Communists he was later expelled from the Party.
 - "One of the local Communist officials in the village is also a Turk, Elman Halil, who came to the village only quite recently, and after having joined the Party has changed his name to Khristu Halil.
 - "Though the majority of the population tried to resist joining the kolkhoz when it was set up in 1948, as the time passed more and more of them were forced to do so under the pressure of the authorities. Today most all of them, together with their land and their animals belong to the farming cooperative. Everybody has to do some special work assigned to him by the management (some are cultivating the fields, others are attending to the livestock, etc) and the work is being done according to plans received from Sofia.
 - "Around the 'Hidirellez' holiday (corresponding to St George Day) of this year new regulations (zakon) were issued as to who is allowed to leave the kolkhozes in certain cases. However, in practice, nobody can quit, because his land, his animals, tools, etc are all parts of the kolkhoz and cannot be released.
 - "The grain has to be delivered to the Government according to the plan. Those small amounts which are left to the individuals are not even enough to bake bread for the family. The situation was especially grave during the past year when the crop had been bad in these regions. This year the crop is expected to be better.

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7. "The prices are fixed by the Government. One kg of wheat costs 17 Leva, ie that is what the Government pays for it. If an individual wants to buy wheat, 15 kg cost 2,500 Leva, a price nobody can afford. The authorities pay 8-9 Leva for 1 kg of barley. However, 1 'shilik' (a measure, approximately 15 kg) costs 1,800 Leva on the free market. Similarly while the Government purchases 1 kg of corn for 12-13 Leva, it costs 100 Leva for the population if they want to buy. Other prices: 1 kg sugar on ration coupons costs 240 Leva, 1 piece of soap of poor quality, sold by the Government, 100 Leva, 1 kg of oil 650 Leva.
8. "Asked whether the farmers are allowed to sell their livestock, Halit Tunaci, related that the possibilities for such sale are very limited. Although there is no provision prohibiting such transactions, with the exception of animals which were surrendered to the kolkhoz, the authorities have various means to interfere. Tunaci had two cows left after the war. He succeeded in selling one finally at the neighboring village, Yenipazar. However, when the authorities found this out, he was compelled to buy the cow back.
9. "Before he left the country, he finally succeeded in selling both of his cows to his uncle, living in the same village for 26,000 Leva. This was a reasonable price for them, because they were young strong cows, good for milking, as well as for work in the fields."

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